



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM**

Doug Ljungren
Assistant Vice President
Performance Events

April 2008

To: All Pointing Breed Clubs

Subject: **“GETTING THERE IS HALF THE BATTLE”**

Pointing breed field events are facing some significant challenges. The price of fuel, increasing restrictions on land use, availability of horses, and limitations on the discharge of firearms are all impacting the future of field events. Since it is reasonable to assume these trends will not be reversed, consideration should be given to how our events can be structured in order to maximize opportunities for participation.

Today more than ever, getting there is half the battle. The following ideas may be helpful as clubs plan for future events. It is up to the judgment of the club to determine if it has the resources to make it work.

- Clustering of Events – Two clubs may be able to cluster their field trials, with one trial on Fri/Sat and another on Sun/Mon.
- Coordination With Neighboring Events – If there are two field events within reasonable driving distance, coordinating the order of the stakes may allow some participants to attend both trials.
- Holding a Hunt Test in Conjunction with a Field Trial – This could happen in a number of ways. It could be two clubs or perhaps the same club. The events could be on different days or perhaps the events could be run concurrently.

In all cases, respect for the land is of the utmost importance. All participants must be responsible for their own cleanup. Host clubs should appoint a committee to perform a final inspection.

Every Club and local situation is slightly different. If there is a unique situation that might work for your club, please feel free to contact the AKC Performance Events Department in order to discuss. The contact person is Lisa Carroll, Manager of Performance Events, LAC@akc.org.

Social and economic trends are changing the world around us. We need to consider how we might change to meet the new challenges while still preserving the core elements and rich heritage of our field events.

Sincerely,

Doug Ljungren